

**In the claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 were previously canceled.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating in a computer system comprising:

a storage area network controller managing a central queue in a storage area network of said computer system supporting an asynchronous messaging and queuing system, said central queue being accessible for all servers;

receiving a message request at said storage area network from a second queue manager local to a second server;

passing said received message request to ~~a~~ said storage area network controller local to a first server of said storage area network; and

retrieving a message from said central queue through said controller by a first queue manager local to a first server; and

maintaining message data on said central queue on storage media in said storage area network, wherein said ~~controller includes means to control a~~ message having a property selected from the ~~a~~ group consisting of: non-persistent and persistent, wherein a persistent message is logged and journaled by the queue and a non-persistent message is discarded responsive to queue manager failure.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising supporting simultaneous access to said central queue by a third queue manager local to a third server and said ~~second~~ first queue manager.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of managing a central queue in a storage area network includes authorizing a connection handle in response to a call request from an application server ~~said~~ to a local queue manager.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising tracking a quantity of

authorized connection handles for said central queue.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing a central queue in a said storage area network includes dispensing an object handle by said a queue manager local to a requesting server for performance of a service to an object.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said ~~transaction~~ message is a transactional message, and said storage area network controller comprises transactional control means that utilizes a syncpoint coordinator.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of managing a central queue in a storage area network includes preserving data integrity.

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41. (New) A computer system comprising:

- a storage area network controller in communication with an asynchronous message and queue system, the controller to manage a central queue in a storage area network of said computer system to support the asynchronous message and queue system, said central queue being accessible for all servers in the system;

- a message request received at said storage area network from a second queue manager local to a second server;

- said received message request passed to said storage area network controller;

- a message retrieved from said central queue through said controller by a first queue manager local to a first server; and

- message data maintained on said central queue on storage media in said storage area network, wherein said message data having a property selected from the group consisting of: non-persistent and persistent.

42. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein a persistent message is logged and journaled by the queue, and a non-persistent message is discarded responsive to queue manager failure.

43. (New) The system of claim 41, further comprising said central message queue to support simultaneous access by a third queue manager local to a third server and said first queue manager.

44. (New) The system of claim 41, further comprising a connection handle authorized by said controller and returned to a call request from an application server to connect an application with a local queue manager.

45. (New) The system of claim 44, further comprising a counter to track a quantity of authorized connection handles.

46. (New) The system of claim 44, further comprising an object handle dispensed by a queue manager local to a requesting server for performance of a service to an object.

47. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein said message is a transactional message, and said storage area network controller comprises transactional control means that utilizes a syncpoint coordinator.

48. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein the controller preserves data integrity.

49. (New) An article for communicating in a computer system, the article comprising:

a computer-readable carrier including computer program instructions to manage message data, the instructions comprising:

instructions for a storage area network controller to manage a central queue in a storage area network of said computer system to support an asynchronous messaging and queuing system, said central queue being accessible for all servers;

instructions to receive a message request at said storage area network from a second queue manager local to a second server;

instructions to pass said received message request to said storage area network controller;

instructions to retrieve a message from said central queue through said controller by a first queue manager local to a first server; and

message data maintained on said central queue on storage media in said storage area network, wherein said message having a property selected from the group consisting of: non-persistent and persistent, wherein a persistent message is logged and journaled by the queue and a non-persistent message is discarded responsive to queue manager failure.

50. (New) The article of claim 49, further comprising instructions to support simultaneous access to said central queue by a third queue manager local to a third server and said first queue manager.

51. (New) The article of claim 49, wherein the instructions to manage a central queue in a storage area network includes authorizing a connection handle in response to a call request from an application server to a local queue manager.

52. (New) The article of claim 51, further comprising instructions to track a quantity of authorized connection handles for said central queue.

53. (New) The article of claim 51, wherein the instructions to manage a central queue in said storage area network includes dispensing an object handle by a queue manager local to a requesting server for performance of a service to an object.